

December 7, 2016

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 7, 2016 at 7:30 PM, West End School, 447 Green Brook Road, North Plainfield, NJ. Mr. Branan called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Branan requested the call of the roll:

David Branan – Aye

Bianka Butler – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. James V. McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Michelle Vella, Assistant Superintendent, and approximately 58 members of the staff and public.

### **Introduction of New Staff**

There was none.

### **Minutes Approval**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote; to accept the public session minutes of November 16, 2016.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote with; Ms. Mullen abstaining to accept the public session minutes of November 22, 2016.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call to vote; accept the executive session minutes of November 16, 2016.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote with; Ms. Mullen abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of November 22, 2016.

### **Financial Report**

There was none.

### **Comments from the Public**

There was none.

### **Student Representative Report**

Student Representatives Yanqing Liang and Radha Patel were absent the following updates were sent via email to the Business Administrator. Student Representative Yanqing Liang reported by email that the NPHS Drama department held their performance of “Curtains” this past weekend. The play a comedy was fun and entertaining. It displayed the hard work and dedication of the performers. The Drama department is

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currently working on auditions and recruitment for the spring musical production, more information will follow.

Last Friday, the choral department invited Dr. Lee the choral director from Leigh High University to sit in on a rehearsal. Dr. Lee gave the choral feedback, his suggestions provided the chorus to work on their performance for their concert on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Interact Club has concluded their food drive last week. At the start of the drive, a competition was announced where the homeroom with the most food items would win a bagel-donut breakfast, and this year's homeroom won with a collection of 216 items. The Blood drive took place on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Red Cross collected 67 pints of blood, which will contribute to saving 201 lives. There will be a blood drive in the spring.

Seniors, instant decision processes have begun, with many acceptances. The instant decision allows for the seniors to know if they are accepted into the college at the end of the interview process. Students are also receiving early decision from colleges. Seniors have been accepted into Kean University, NJIT, College of St. Elizabeth and University of Illinois.

Student representative Radha Patel updated the board by email on fall sports coming to a close. Winter sports beings, basketball, wrestling have started practices, competition cheerleading, winter track, and winter guard. The winter pep rally will be displaying the performances of the cheerleading team.

The first official meeting of the leadership team of the Rho Kappa history national honors society and new officers have begun. The president of Rho Kappa is Radha Patel and Yanqing Liang is the vice president. The society is in the process of creating fundraisers and meetings to build a strong base for the honor society.

### **Presentation**

Dr. McLaughlin and Ms. Vella presented Service Milestone Awards to individual staff members who have reached various lengths of service in the district. Also recognized for his service was Mr. Dorian Parreott who will be retiring at the conclusion of this school year.

### **Superintendent's Report**

On Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the second graders at East End School celebrated and participated in Native American Day. It was a culmination of a social studies unit on Native Americans. With the help of parent volunteers and under the guidance of their teachers, the second graders shared their knowledge of the American Indian culture. The day of the festival, students wore headbands and were engaged in Native American themed activities. The students were able to receive a feather in their headbands once they completed a station. Each second grade classroom was set up as a station to allow the students to create Native American themed items. The students were able to rotate to all the classrooms to participate in these activities. Ms. Vella and I were both able to visit and see this instructionally based theme day in action. This day was a great example of how student engagement brings an energy to learning. Students were both able and eager to share the multiple aspects of learning from this unit.

Work with the newly formed District Green Team is continuing. Mr. Mathis facilitated a meeting of the Green Team on December 2<sup>nd</sup> where plans were discussed for the first round of the action plan submission in January 2017. Grant funding connected with the

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initiative is being sought for an NJEA \$10,000 Comprehensive Bike Program at Middle/High School and a Gardiner \$30,000 grant application for improvements and repairs to heating and cooling equipment in the Middle/High School. Additional \$2,000 grants funded by PSEG connected with school based green team efforts are also being considered.

We were pleased to receive word from Roger Jinks, county superintendent, that the district's Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2016-2019 has been approved.

I have received Don's recommendation to utilize Aspire, a payroll services company to provide payroll processing and reporting services. This contracted service would replace a full time payroll position on staff. Aspire will provide an individual to be here on site for a portion of the week and other portions of work will be performed remotely. The costs are estimated to be about the same. We have spoken to other district representatives who have used Aspire and also with Systems 3000 - all of whom had very positive comments. Please be aware that the not to exceed amount on the resolution is a maximum expenditure and that our actual costs may be less since this takes into account other projects we are considering for this company.

On Monday, the district received an update of our SAT November scores. As the board is aware, the SAT is one of the options our seniors may apply toward their testing requirement for graduation. Thus far this year, we have also conducted one ASVAB administration and will conduct an additional administration of the ASVAB next week. Taken together with the December 3rd SAT (which scores we will expect to receive by the second week of January) these remaining two test administrations will provide an opportunity for our 47 students who continue to be in need of a testing requirement. The graduation appeals process will continue for any student who has not satisfied the testing requirement by the end of January.

Ms. Prestamo recently updated our staff in regard to the progress that is occurring with our substitute fill rate. For the first three months of the school year we have been able to maintain a substitute fill rate of over 90% each month. This is an improvement over last year's average of 84% for the same three months. This change is due to district efforts to boost the substitute pool through in person interviews with quality substitutes. Since July the district has approved 36 new individuals and continues to conduct with interviews once each month. An additional 14 are in the process of completing their paperwork and a new crew of potential subs interviewed on Wednesday.

On July 13, 2016, the State Board of Education adopted regulations regarding testing for lead in drinking water in public schools throughout New Jersey. The operations department, which Mr. Sternberg oversees, is taking all required steps for compliance. Given the important nature of this work, Mr. Mathis will provide an update in each of his reports to the board and beginning with our next meeting, I will ask Mr. Sternberg to provide a report at each board meeting until all requirements are satisfied.

We were recently informed that the NJDOE will be incorporating CTE programs into the college and career readiness portion of the School Performance Report. This is positive news since our district strongly believes and continues to make strong efforts in building a CTE program that prepares all students for future career success.

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Tonight, we would like to salute Mr. Dorian Parreott who has truly created impact in our school district and in the lives of the students he has taught.

Dorian joined the North Plainfield School District in 1998 as an instrumental music teacher after spending the first 10 years of his career in Neptune. While he dedicated the majority of his eighteen years in North Plainfield to teaching at the high school, recently Dorian has been able to share his talents with our younger students in Somerset and West End Schools. Over the years, Dorian has directed the jazz band, the marching band, and myriad concerts. He has produced and directed the music for our high school plays. Dorian has traveled with his talented student musicians to Giants Stadium, Williamsburg (Virginia), Toronto (Canada), marching band competitions and championships, music festivals, and numerous events for the North Plainfield community. Dorian has been a touchstone of music performance in our school district. On this happy note, we extend our congratulations and a small token of our thanks to Mr. Parreott.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools

Personnel

**It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process.**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that WHEREAS Dorian Parreott II, instrumental music teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that he wishes to retire effective February 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS he has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately eighteen years with dedication to the highest standards, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extends to Mr. Parreott II its thanks for the service he has given and best wishes for his future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on December 7, 2016, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Mr. Parreott II.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accepts with regret, the resignation of Mary Castro, elementary teacher at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective February 1, 2017.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Danielle Fauci, social studies teacher at NPMS, a leave of absence effective March 6, 2017 or sooner, if necessary, using accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through June 30, 2017.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Gabriela Colon, ESL teacher at West End School, a leave of absence effective March 20, 2017 or sooner, if necessary, using accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through June 30, 2017.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers/substitute paraprofessionals.

Dymond Cameron  
Kyle Trama

Camila Marte  
Kahina Louis

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Ridhima Bajaj, elementary teacher at East End School, a leave of absence effective February 13, 2017 or sooner, if necessary, using accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through June 30, 2017.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Christopher Tyler, health and physical education teacher at NPHS, to teach an additional class, for the additional annual salary of \$7,393.20, effective November 16, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of the individuals indicated as K-12 district substitute paraprofessionals.

Savita Bhosale

Elizabeth Schwartz

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Theresa Fuller as a tutor for PASS at NPHS, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Cara Colabelli to serve as a volunteer assistant winter track coach at NPHS.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Shannon West to serve as a volunteer assistant girls' basketball coach at NPHS.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Patricia Nemeckay, speech language specialist at Stony Brook School, a leave of absence using accrued sick days, effective November 30, 2016 through January 20, 2017, or until released by her physician.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Megan Pittenger, paraprofessional at Somerset School, effective December 1, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the employment of Victor Roque, Jr. as a temporary music teacher at Somerset and West End Schools, from September 22, 2016 through December 23, 2016 to September 22, 2016 through January 31, 2017. (Mr. Roque, Jr. will temporarily replace Dorian Parreott.)

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the recommendation to appoint Dorian Parreott as band director at Somerset and West End Schools.

Further, that the Board of Education appoints Victor Roque, Jr. as band director at Somerset and West End Schools for the 2016-2017 school year at the stipend of \$1,894 per school for a total of \$3,788. (Mr. Roque, Jr. will replace Dorian Parreott.)

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the staff indicated for 8th grade curriculum revisions, at the rate of \$49.74 per hour, not to exceed six hours in total.

Michael Nardi

John Thompson

Paul Kraucheunas

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye



David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the use of Brookfield Educational Services Program to provide bedside instruction as needed, at the rate of \$52.24 per hour.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Schools to submit the ESEA Accountability Corrective Action Plan to address factors impacting the PARCC participation rate.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective November 24, 2016.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
MMMM-16-17	9/23/12	PD	Crossroads School	\$69,361.20/yr. prorated

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective November 17, 2016.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
EEEE-16-17	2/28/96	MID	Deron School of New Jersey II	\$49,705.20/yr. prorated

Further, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective November 17, 2016.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
EEEE-16-17	2/28/96	MID	Mary A. Dobbins School	\$47,307.60/yr. prorated

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective December 8, 2016.  
 Transportation will be required.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
000000-16-17	3/21/01	OHI	NuView Academy	\$62,160.00/yr. prorated
			Occupational Therapy	\$61.50/session (1 session/week)

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

**Finance, Purchasing & Agreements**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education acknowledges the results of the annual school election held on November 8, 2016, as outlined on the Certificate of Election, provided by the Board of County Canvassers of Somerset County.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves Aspire Payroll LLC., having an office located at 14 Main Street, Madison NJ 07940, to provide payroll and reporting services beginning December 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 at an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves the field trips indicated.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
12/07/16	Thomas Edison National Park	Stony Brook	\$248.00	District Bus
01/09/17	Montclair State University	High School	\$124.00	District Bus

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes the individuals indicated to apply for grants through DonorsChoose.Org for the purpose of purchasing the materials listed at the values noted.

Staff Name	School/Grade	Purchase Request	Objective	Value
Lauren Bamber	WE/ PreK	Set of cube chairs, sensory table and sensory materials.	To facilitate the development of sensory integration skills, promote self-calming techniques and provide necessary breaks when learning becomes overstimulating.	\$588.00
Allison Hessemer	EE/ PreK	A set of multi-cultural dolls, a set of mailboxes, and several puzzles	The materials will provide a variety of learning opportunities including using words to ask for items, acting out daily living scenes and spending time playing to learn appropriate social engagement skills.	\$359.59
Rachel Stefanoski	WE/ PreK	Hands-on sensory items, including an activity tote, sensory blocks, feely box, nesting tower, music maker, ball track and sorting bucket.	To provide motivation for sustained attention and a varied amount of learning opportunities. The materials will help young students develop language skills, attending and task completion skills.	\$275.00

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves Ms. Wendy Berk to apply for the Brain Injury Alliance of NJ-U Got Brains Champion School Grant in the amount of \$750.00 for the purpose of creating a teen safe driving program project.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

**Correspondence**

There was none.

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – Next meeting scheduled for December 22, 2016 at 4:30 pm.  
 Communications – Next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2017 at 6:30 pm.  
 Curriculum – Next meeting scheduled for January 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Finance & Facilities – Next meeting scheduled for December 20, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Negotiations – Next meeting scheduled for December 19, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper mentioned legislative assembly on Saturday December 10, 2016. He also mentioned county meeting and issues discussed.

SCSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – Ms. Mullen mentioned recent meeting and issues discussed.

### **Old Business**

There was none.

### **New Business**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves for first and second reading the following revised policies per the attached list “A”.

David Branan – Aye

Bianka Butler – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves for first reading the following new policy per the attached list “B”.

David Branan – Aye

Bianka Butler – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

### **Current Events in Education**

Ms. Vella reported that over the weekend, 21 teachers attended a Google Level I training session taught by Kelli Beard, Megan Schutz, and Michael Mulry from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the NPHS library. The trainers taught the skills and theories behind the exam for the first two and a half hours, then proctored and monitored the Google Level I exam for the afternoon. Of the 21 teachers who took the exam, 17 passed and are now considered Google Level I educators. This is a success, and we are extremely happy with the turnout; 21 teachers from across the district volunteered their time to learn more about Google and further their own professional development, and our Google Coaches were happy to help them in that endeavor. We look forward to continuing and fostering these opportunities for our educators, as we are up to 42 Google Level I certified staff.

Gabriela Colon, a West End ESL teacher, is applying for a grant centered upon sheltered instruction training for teachers. This grant opportunity would fund training for Ms. Colon as a trainer to turnkey information to our staff; which aligns to the vision of the Bi-literacy Action Committee.

The French teachers met in November to begin their work on curriculum mapping for levels 1 to 5. After a full day of mapping, teachers have determined that it is advantageous to work in collaboration to complete each stage of this curriculum writing process. Their next step is organizing the curriculum into units of study and identifying a summative

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assessment for each unit. In addition to a release day, each course will receive 50 hours of curriculum writing time.

On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, administrative representatives, as well as teaching representatives from DEAC will be meeting with Carl Blanchard, NJDOE Director in the Office of Evaluation/AchieveNJ. He will discuss AchieveNJ, any challenges we are facing and how the NJDOE might improve the system. This would be part of a listening tour he is conducting to get feedback from educators who are doing the real work of evaluation in their schools.

Ms. Vella is working with Ms. Sowden to update registration forms. We have reviewed forms and made updates, and they are currently being reviewed by our attorney. In addition, we hosted a roundtable with the school secretaries to gather feedback about procedures and recommendations moving forward to streamline and unify work.

North Plainfield has chosen to make the Seal of Bi-literacy available to our graduating students. The Seal of Bi-literacy recognizes graduates that have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in a language other than English and they will qualify by taking the AAPPL assessment. The NJDOE defines the purposes of the State Seal of Bi-literacy are as follows: To encourage students to study languages; to certify attainment of bi-literacy; to provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and bi-literacy skills; to provide universities with a method to recognize and award academic credit to applicants seeking admission; to prepare students with 21st century skills; to recognize and promote foreign language instruction in public schools; and to strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community.

The Character Education Committee reconvened last week and focused upon our strengths and areas in need of continued development in: Common language of CARD across the district, incorporating CARD/character education into the curriculum, and demonstration of CARD on a daily basis by all. Priorities were defined for the upcoming year that include unified communication/reflection regarding discipline and CARD, One Book, One School connection to our core values, and building opportunities into our scheduled events to highlight how our students and staff regularly demonstrate the core values of our school district.

Last week, high school guidance counselors, CTE program teachers and Dr. Stephenson met with Mr. Kushner and Ms. Vella to discuss our current CTE program and planning for next year. It was decided that the eighth grade students would be exposed to our career and technical education paths by learning about the program options in the rotation classes and would have an opportunity to shadow a CTE course of interest for a day at the high school level. The members of the group will speak at a middle school and high school faculty meeting.

Extended Day program this year will have some uniform materials for the K-4 schools. All students will be provided with the Ready program for mathematics support and we will be piloting FunDations with the West End students as a tier two intervention. This will be an appropriate compliment to upcoming work investigating how we incorporate phonics into our primary grades.

December 7, 2016

Ms. Vella attended an ESSA information session hosted by the NJDOE last week. There have been some regulatory changes that may result in some decreases to our Title I, II and III funding for the upcoming year. In addition, some constraints have been lifted regarding how we utilize federal funds. Title IV will be a new source of funding dedicated to support and enrichment in the academic program.

During a recent Curriculum Committee meeting, we discussed some work that will be upcoming as we plan for the next school year. Incorporating an engineering track for students is an area of focus, as well as our academic support program in mathematics and language arts at the high school level.

**Comments from the Public**

There were none.

**Future Agenda Items**

Per the presentation calendar ([www.nplainfield.org](http://www.nplainfield.org))

Special Joint meeting with North Plainfield Borough – Dec.12, 2016 – 7:30 pm

Audit Presentation – Robert Swisher, Wayne Miller – Dec. 21, 2016

Reorganization Meeting – Jan. 4, 2017

**Adjournment**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at Watchung School for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law. It is anticipated that Executive Session will last approximately one and a half an hour.

Resolved that the Board of Education will adjourn to Executive Session for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg